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Amendment in response to
February 27, 2007 Office action

Atty Dkt No.: 2003P16410US
Serial No.: 10/723,338

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A real-time communications system comprising:
 - a plurality of communications devices communicating with each other over a network;
 - a central storage on said network storing presence and availability information about system users, each of said plurality of communications devices being identifiable with one or more of said system users; and
 - a screensaver on at least one of said communications devices, said screensaver selectively displaying status information on a corresponding identified user, said status information being filtered from said presence and availability information, whereby said screensaver apprises viewers of current status of said corresponding identified user.
2. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 1, wherein said presence and availability information includes one or more policies identifying identity states for display by said screensaver.
3. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 1, wherein said one or more policies assign a host name identifying status information in said central storage with said corresponding identified user.
4. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 1, further comprising a presence and availability system, said presence and availability system filtering said presence and availability information with said one or more policies and providing said status information to said screensaver.

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5. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 4, wherein said presence and availability system periodically provides status updates to said screensaver.
6. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 4, wherein said screensaver periodically requests status updates from said presence and availability system.
7. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 4, wherein said central storage is in said presence and availability system.
8. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one of said communications devices is a personal computer displaying said screensaver, said screensaver running on said personal computer.
9. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 1, at least one other of said communications devices receives user presence and availability input and provides received said presence and availability input to said central storage.
10. (original) A real-time communications system as in claim 1, wherein said network is the Internet.
11. (currently amended) A method of automatically displaying real time status on communications devices networked together in a real-time communications system, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) enabling a screensaver;
 - b) requesting current status, said current status being information on a corresponding identified user;
 - c) passing said current status to said screensaver; and
 - d) displaying said current status in said screensaver on a local display.

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12. (original) A method as in claim 11, wherein said local display is a display for one of said distributed communications devices and said method further comprises monitoring said one for system activity.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method as in claim 27 [[12]], wherein said local display is a display for one of said communications devices and said method further comprises periodically returning to step (b).

15. (original) A method as in claim 14, wherein a period is set in said screensaver for periodically returning to step (b).

16. (currently amended) A method as in claim 27 [[12]], wherein said local display is a display for one of said communications devices and said method further comprises returning to step (b) responsive to an update indication from a presence and availability system.

17. (original) A method as in claim 11, wherein passing current status information comprises filtering centrally stored presence and availability data, filtered said presence and availability data indicating current status for a user identified with said local display.

18. (original) A method as in claim 17, wherein said filters select what information is provided as said status information.

19. (original) A method as in claim 17, wherein said filters select how said status information is displayed by said screensaver.

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20. (currently amended) A computer program product for automatically displaying real time status on communications devices networked together in a real-time communications system, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer program code means for a screensaver, said screensaver monitoring computer activity on a local computer and locally displaying information responsive to an activity time out;

computer program code means for requesting current status information on a corresponding identified user for display by said screensaver; and

computer program code means for receiving remotely stored information provided responsive to a request for said information for display.

21. (original) A computer program product for automatically displaying real time status as in claim 20, further comprising computer program code means for periodically updating locally displayed information.

22. (original) A computer program product for automatically displaying real time status as in claim 20, wherein said computer program code means for requesting information, requests information responsive to an update event.

23. (canceled)

24. (original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

a) selectively display a screensaver on a local display, said screensaver displaying local user status information;

b) receive requests for current status, current status requests originating from said screensaver and from communications devices networked together in a real-time communications system;

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- c) filter user presence and availability information, filtered said user presence and availability information being current status for a respective user;
- d) pass said current status to a respective one of said communications devices for display on a local said screensaver; and
- e) display corresponding said current status in said screensaver.

25. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium as in claim 24, wherein the step (c) filters said user presence and availability information, indicates what said screensaver displays and indicates how said status is displayed by said screensaver.

26. (canceled)

27. (new) A method of automatically displaying real time status on communications devices networked together in a real-time communications system, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) enabling a screensaver on one of said distributed communications devices;
- b) monitoring said one for system activity; and upon a system activity timeout
- c) requesting current status;
- d) passing said current status to said screensaver; and
- e) displaying said current status in said screensaver on a local display on said one.

28. (new) A computer program product for automatically displaying real time status on communications devices networked together in a real-time communications system, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer program code means for a screensaver, said screensaver monitoring computer activity on a local computer and locally displaying information responsive to an activity time out;

computer program code means for requesting information for display by said screensaver, said information being requested responsive to an update event, wherein computer program code means for requesting information recognizes said update event as being one of an activity

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timeout, passage of a scheduled period, expiration of an event and receipt of an update flag from a presence and availability system; and

computer program code means for receiving remotely stored information provided responsive to a request for said information for display.

29. (new) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

- a) selectively display a screensaver on a local display, said screensaver displaying local user status information;
- b) receive requests for current status, current status requests originating from said screensaver and from communications devices networked together in a real-time communications system;
- c) filter user presence and availability information, filtered said user presence and availability information being current status for a respective user;
- d) pass said current status to a respective one of said communications devices for display on a local said screensaver, wherein the current status passed in step (d) is selected from the group of text messages including:

In a meeting from a meeting start time to a meeting stop time,

Out to Lunch,

On Vacation from a vacation start time to a vacation stop time,

Working from Home,

In a Meeting, Available for IM Communications,

Working Remotely, available for Telephone Communications, and

On a Business Trip, Periodically Checking e-mail; and

- e) display corresponding said current status in said screensaver.